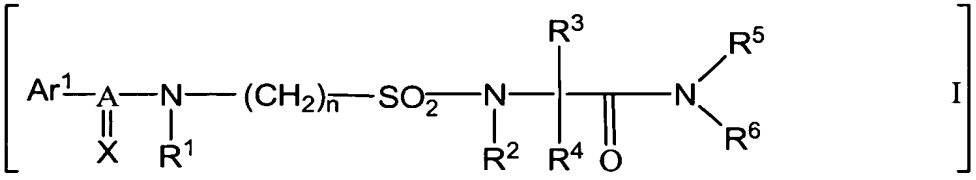
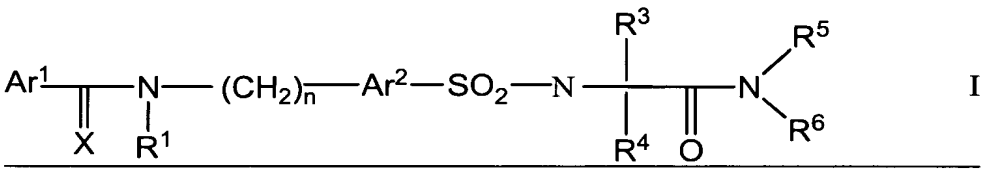
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to formula I



I



I

with its geometrical isomers, in an optically active form as enantiomers, diastereomers, as well as in the form of racemates, as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

Ar^1 is unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted with one or more substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl, trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, acyloxy, acylamino, sulfoxy, sulfonyl, or substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6- thioalkoxy;

Ar^2 is unsubstituted thienyl or thienyl substituted with one or more substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl, trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, carboxyl,

cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, acyloxy, acylamino, sulfoxy, sulfonyl, or substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6- thioalkoxy;

X is O or S;

R^1 is hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted C_1-C_6-alkyl group, or R^1 may form a substituted or unsubstituted 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated fused ring with Ar^1, or R^2 and R^4 form a substituted or unsubstituted 5-6 membered saturated or unsaturated ring;

R^2 is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl group;

n is 1;

R^3 and R^4 are both hydrogen;

R^5 is H or substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of H, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-aliphatic alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted saturated cyclic C_4-C_8-alkyl optionally containing 1-3 heteroatoms and optionally fused with an aryl or an heteroaryl; or R^6 is a substituted aryl, unsubstituted aryl, substituted heteroaryl, or unsubstituted heteroaryl,

wherein said aryl or heteroaryl groups may be substituted with substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl, trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, acyloxy, acylamino, sulfoxy, sulfonyl, or C_1-C_6-thioalkoxy.

Claims 2-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein

R^5 is H; and R^6 is a C_1-C_6-alkyl which is substituted by an aryl, an heteroaryl group or an aminoaryl, aminoheteroaryl, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, wherein said aryl and heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted by substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl, trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, sulfoxy, or C_1-C_6-thioalkoxy.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 7, wherein R^6 is a substituted or unsubstituted pyridyl group.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1 which is selected from the following group:

4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-[(2-{[3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-amino]-2-oxoethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)benzamide,

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[(2-{[2-({5-nitropyridin-2-yl}amino)ethyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-amino]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide,

4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-oxo-2-[(2-{[3-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-amino]ethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)benzamide,

4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-oxo-2-[(2-{[5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-amino]ethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)benzamide,

N-({5-[({2-[4-(1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}amino)-sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)-4-chlorobenzamide, or

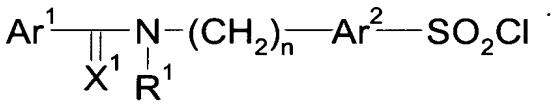
4-chloro-N-[(5-{[(2-oxo-2-{3-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]anilino}ethyl)amino]-sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide.

Claims 10-16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

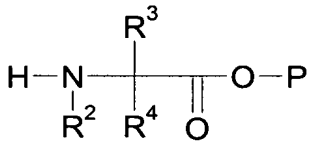
Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of the sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1 comprising:

a) preparing a sulfonyl compound V,



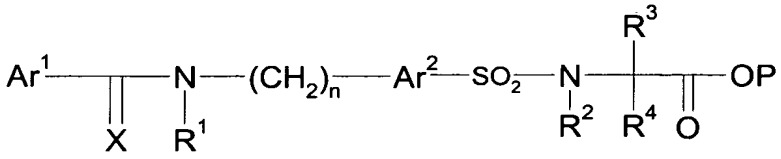
V

b) reacting the sulfonyl compound V with the protected amino acid compound VIII



VIII

to obtain compound IX



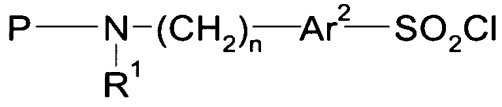
IX

c) deprotecting compound IX and finally

d) coupling.

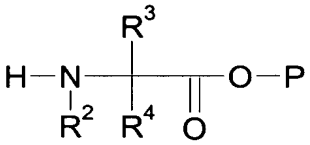
Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of the sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1, comprising:

a) preparing a protected sulfonyl compound VII



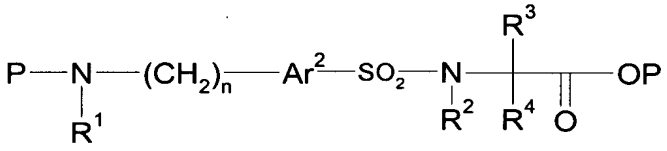
VII

b) reacting the sulfonyl compound VII with the protected amino acid compound VIII



VIII

to obtain compound X



X

e) followed by deprotecting;

f) coupling;

g) deprotecting, and

h) acylation.

Claims 20-28 (Cancelled).

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to Claim 1, which is 4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-[(2-{[3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-amino]-2-oxoethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)benzamide.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A method comprising

administering the sulfonyl amino acid derivative of Claim 1 to a mammal.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 30, wherein the mammal is a human.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered orally.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): A method comprising

administering the sulfonyl amino acid derivative of Claim 1 to a human in an amount effective for modulating the JNK pathway.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered to a human having a neuronal disorder selected from the group consisting of epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, retinal disease, spinal cord injury, and head trauma.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered to a human having an autoimmune disease selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease, rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, septic shock, and transplant rejection.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered to a human having breast cancer, colorectal cancer, or pancreatic cancer.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered to a human having a cardiovascular disease selected from the group consisting of stroke arteriosclerosis, myocardial infarction, and myocardial reperfusion injury.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 30, wherein the sulfonyl amino acid derivative is administered in an amount effective for decreasing the production of IL-2.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein Ar^1 is a chloro-phenyl group and Ar^2 is an unsubstituted thienyl group.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The sulfonyl amino acid derivative according to claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are hydrogen.

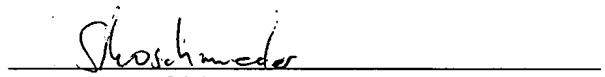
BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1, 8, 9, 17-19 and 29-40 are active in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error in formula I of Claim 1. Support for the amendment is found in original Claim 1. No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment.

Applicants submit the amendment to the claims places all now-pending claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections and the passage of all now-pending claims to Issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Stefan U. Koschmieder
Registration No. 50,238

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
NFO/SUK/cja